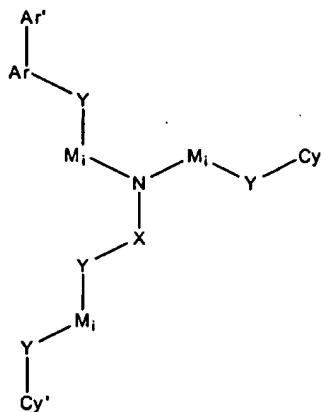


*To next enter
Amendment
(B) 960 Jan*

In the claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of increasing expression of vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) in a subject with ischemic myocardial tissue, wherein the method comprises improving myocardial function following myocardial ischemia comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a hedgehog agonist, effective to promote angiogenesis, thereby improving myocardial function following myocardial ischemia, wherein said angiogenesis includes increased expression of vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), and wherein the hedgehog agonist is a small organic molecule represented by the general formula (XII):

Formula XII



wherein, as valence and stability permit,

Ar and Ar' independently represent substituted or unsubstituted aryl or heteroaryl rings; Y, independently for each occurrence, is absent or represent -N(R)-, -O-, -S-, or -Se-; X is selected from -C(=O)-, -C(=S)-, -S(O₂)-, -S(O)-, -C(=NCN)-, -P(=O)(OR₂)-, and a methylene group optionally substituted with 1-2 groups such as lower alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl groups;

M represents, independently for each occurrence, a substituted or unsubstituted methylene group, or two M taken together represent substituted or unsubstituted ethene or ethyne;